

production capacity and for easy availability of quality aids and appliances.

- (4) A new four tier-scheme namely, National Programme for Rehabilitation of persons with Disabilities has been approved in the State sector for implementation in order to create infrastructure at State/District/Block and Gram Panchayat level for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped.
- (5) 107 districts have been identified for providing comprehensive rehabilitation services at the doorsteps of persons with disabilities. Services identified include setting up of composites fitment and rehabilitation centres in collaboration between the National Institute/Artificial Limbs Manufacturing Corporation of India/District Rehabilitation Centres under the Central Government and the District administration/State Government respectively.

Bungling of lakhs of rupees by NIOD, Calcutta

123. SHRI VIJAY SINGH YADAV; Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that National Institute of Orthopaedically Disabled, Calcutta has bungle lakhs of rupees by launching a project without getting the approval of Standing finance Committee of her Ministry;

(b) if so, the details of action taken by Government; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) No, Sir. No such mis-utilisation of funds have come to the notice of the Ministry.

(b) and (c) does not arise.

Meeting between leaders of Hindu and Christen communities

124. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the National Minority Commission had convened a meeting between community leaders of the Hindu and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

[24th July, 2000]

RAJYA SABHA

Christian Communities to resolve the growing threat of attacks on Christian Minorities;

(b) if so, whether it is also a fact that the VHP and the Bajrang Dal had been invited to represent the Hindu Community; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and the yardsticks applied to assign VHP and Bajrang Dal the status of sole representatives of the Hindu community?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The National Commission for Minorities met some leaders of the Christian Community in June, 2000 in the context of allegations that the attacks on christian places of worship and institutions were being masterminded by the VHP/Bajrang Dal. During the meeting, the Christian leaders welcomed a meeting with the representatives of the VHP/ Bajrang Dal to be arranged by the National Commission for Minorities. This, it was felt, would assist in removing misunderstanding and restoring harmony.

(b) The NCM later held a separate meeting with VHP/Bajrang Dal leaders. There was wholehearted support from these two organizations to the proposal for a dialogue. Dates convenient to the VHP/ Bajrang Dal were 11th and 12th July, 2000. These dates however did not suit the leaders of the christian community. The dialogue has therefore not taken place so far.

(c) The NCM has at no stage extended any recognition to the VHP/Bajrang Dal as being sole representatives of the Hindu Community.

Plan for poor street children in Delhi

125. PROF. M.M AGARWAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether government have any comprehensive plan for the poor street children in Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the details of steps proposed by Government to solve their" problem?